

Giocondità

Pietro Roccasalva

19.10.2021

30.10.2021

MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique is happy to present Pietro Roccasalva's first show at the gallery, *Giocondità*.

The presentation of *Giocondità* is accompanied by a text by Los Angeles-based curator Douglas Fogle:

“One of the principal methods employed by Roccasalva is repetition. The strongest images that make up his ongoing symbolic lexicon reappear over and over again throughout his work with each iteration embodying a slight transformation as they migrate from two to three dimensions and back again.

The digital animation *Giocondità* (2002) was produced during an artist's residency in the deconsecrated Church of San Francesco in Como, Italy. Cinematographically composed of an aerial tracking shot that sweeps around a digitally rendered church, Roccasalva's simulated camera methodically observes this speculative building with a bird's eye view from the digital firmament. As his “camera” tracks its irregular circular trajectory around this structure, time elapses and the Sun starts to steadily set forcing the building to cast longer and longer shadows on its virtual surroundings. Upon closer inspection we are startled to see that this is no normal basilica as its cupola has been rather subversively rendered by the artist in the form of a common kitchen citrus juicer that slowly rotates through the duration of the video. (...) In his formulation, what at first seems like a virtual architectural folly in the form of a church becomes a tomb for a failing Sun which itself mirrors the decline of Western notions of Truth and Reason while heralding a world that has lost its center.

Admittedly this may seem like a lot to load onto this image but in Roccasalva's world it doesn't seem so burdensome. There is a lightness to the way that he focuses on everyday objects and transmits them to the viewer as if these images somehow came to us in daydream. (...) As the

camera in *Giocondità* follows an irregular orbital path around the church we find ourselves caught not only within the gravitational pull of a building illuminated by the crepuscular shadows of a dying Sun but also within the confines of a cinematic establishing shot of an ongoing story of loss and decay.”

- Douglas Fogle

Press Contact:

Francesca Sabatini
 sabatini@massimodecarlo.com
 www.massimodecarlopieceunique.fr
 IG: massimodecarlopieceunique

Artworks

Pietro Roccasalva
Untitled (Giocondità VIII), 2021, oil on canvas
 74 x 96 x 2,8 cm (framed 76,5 x 98,5 x 4,7 cm)

Pietro Roccasalva
Untitled (Giocondità IX), 2021, oil on canvas
 74 x 94,8 x 2,8 cm (framed 76,5 x 97,3 x 4,7 cm)

Pietro Roccasalva
Untitled (Giocondità X), 2021, oil on canvas
 74 x 95 x 2,8 cm (framed 76,5 x 97,5 x 4,7 cm)

Pietro Roccasalva
Untitled (Giocondità XI), 2021, oil on canvas
 74 x 95,5 x 2,8 cm (framed 76,5 x 98 x 4,7 cm)

Pietro Roccasalva
Untitled (Giocondità XII), 2021, oil on canvas
 74 x 96 x 2,8 cm (framed 76,5 x 98,5 x 4,7 cm)

Pietro Roccasalva
Untitled (Giocondità XIII), 2021, oil on canvas
 74,3 x 92,6 x 2,8 cm (framed 76,8 x 95 x 4,7 cm)

Pietro Roccasalva

Pietro Roccasalva was born in 1970 in Modica, Italy. He currently lives and works in Milan.

His solo exhibitions include: The Power Station, Dallas, Texas, USA (2016); Kölnischer Kunstverein, Germany (2014); Le Magasin in Grenoble, France (2013); GaMeC in Bergamo, Italy (2007); and Fondazione Querini Stampalia in Venice, Italy (2006). His work was part of group exhibitions at David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK; Centre for Contemporary Art in Warsaw, Bonniers Konsthall in Stockholm, Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago (USA), MoMA PS1 in New York (USA), MAXXI in Rome, Italy, Kadist Art Foundation in Paris France, S.M.A.K. - Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Gent. He was invited for the Venice Biennial in 2009, Manifesta 7 in 2008 and the Prague Biennial in 2007.

Douglas Fogle

Douglas Fogle is a writer and independent curator in Los Angeles. He is the former Chief Curator at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.